

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 JUN 2005

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel all claims now pending in the application, *i.e.*, claims 1-15, without prejudice. Please add new claims 16-31 as shown below in the List of Claims.

List of Claims

1-15. Cancelled.

16. (New) A liquid detergent and cleaning agent composition comprising a liquid medium with a water content of up to 15 wt%, based on the composition, and particles of bleaching agent suspended in said liquid medium, wherein each particle has a coating surrounding said bleaching agent, said coating being comprised of at least two layers:

- a) an innermost layer, comprising one or more hydrate-forming inorganic salts as the main component(s), and wherein said innermost layer makes up 2 to 20 wt% of the particle of coated bleaching agent; and
- b) an outer layer, which comprises as its main component(s), alkali metal silicate(s) with a modulus of SiO_2 to M_2O (M = alkali metal) of greater than 2.5, and wherein said outer layer makes up 0.2 to 5 wt% of the particle of coated bleaching agent,

and wherein the dissolving time of said particles of bleaching agent is at least 5 minutes, as measured for 95% dissolution in water at 15°C and 2 g/l.

- 17. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said bleaching agent is an inorganic or organic peroxy compounds.
- 18. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said bleaching agent comprises sodium percarbonate.
- 19. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said bleaching agent comprises a peroxyacid with one or two peroxy groups.

20. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the innermost layer of said coating consists essentially of one or more salts selected from the group consisting of: alkali metal sulfates; magnesium sulfate; alkali metal carbonates; alkali metal bicarbonates; mixed salts of sodium carbonate with sodium bicarbonates or with sodium sulfate; alkali metal borates; and alkali metal perborates.
21. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the outer layer of said coating consists essentially of 0.2 to less than 3.0 wt% alkali metal silicate with a modulus in the range of from 3 to 5.
22. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein the outer layer of said coating is prepared using an aqueous solution with an alkali metal silicate content of 20 wt% or less.
23. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said composition comprises 2 to 50 wt% of said particles of bleaching agent and wherein the dissolving time of said particles of bleaching agent is in the range of from 10 to 60 minutes.
24. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said bleaching agent is a coated inorganic peroxy salt and said composition further comprises an active amount of a bleaching activator.
25. (New) The composition of claim 24, wherein said bleaching activator has a coating of one or more layers which reduces the rate of solution.
26. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said liquid medium comprises: one or more anionic and/or nonionic surfactants; water; a mono- or polyhydric alcohol having up to 6 C atoms and which can optionally contain further hydrophilic substituents; and, optionally, a stabilizer which is capable of forming a chelate complex.

27. (New) The composition of claim 16, further comprising one or more washing- and/or cleaning-active enzymes.
28. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said composition is packaged in portioned form in bags of a water-soluble polymeric material which are suitable for washing and cleaning purposes.
29. (New) The composition of claim 16, further comprising an active amount of an opacifying agent selected from either styrene-acrylic copolymers or silicone-quats.
30. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said composition comprises sodium percarbonate with an average particle diameter in the range of from 0.5 to 1 mm and substantially no particles of bleaching agent smaller than 0.2 mm.
31. (New) The composition of claim 16, wherein said particles of bleaching agent comprise sodium percarbonate and wherein the content of particles with a diameter of less than 0.4 mm is less than 10 wt% of said bleaching agent.